

Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee
May 17, 2018 8:00 AM
Falmouth Town Hall

Roll Call

Present: Richard Craven, William Oliver, Richard Garrett, Peter Dion, Edward Tolan, Alan Twombly

Members of the public present.

I Chairperson's Comments

This morning put in rip-rap down by the launching ramp at Town Landing and it's a huge improvement. Chief Tolan – we worked with engineer Barney Baker a few weeks ago, approved through DEP for fill, worked with Public Works to put fill in.

Members working on the water today: Skyler, Paul and Manny. Thanked Paul for the very informative email sent last January 23 about the Bangs Island mussel request. Al and others went to hearing, very informative.

II Approve Minutes of October 19, 2017 meeting

Richard Craven made a motion to approve the minutes, Richard Garrett seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III Public Comment

Charles Whittier, Falmouth resident and boat owner.

IV Harbormaster Report

Currently, we have received 1100 mooring renewals and new permits. Expect that number to go up a little more in the coming weeks. People who are not renewing – 42 (nine from Town Landing). Have not heard from 24 people yet. Certified letters sent out April 30, have until June 1 to respond and pay late fee to keep their permits. We will have a more accurate number after June 1. The wait list currently stands at 25 people on the wait list (after eight people were removed this year). Two were non-resident, which keeps going down each year. Dinghy permits – sold all resident dinghy permits on Dinghy Day. Non-resident permits – sold 19 out of 20. If by the end of the month that one isn't claimed, there are a couple residents waiting to buy. Town landing permits for people off the wait-list – issued eight so far and waiting for a response from one that was emailed the day before yesterday and they have a week to respond.

A comment was made that 1100 seems low. Al explained that due to switching to new mooring program, a lot of historical data was lost, but we have been around 1100 for the past few years. We will probably receive in a few more to bring it up around 1120 or so. Chief Tolan stated the peak of the economy was around 1350. But for 6-7 years it's been around 1100.

V Update on the new floats

Al is trying to send out weekly emails to keep everyone up to date. We are running behind schedule on the building of the new floats due to the storms and hurricanes last year, a lot of people incurred damage. So Custom Floats had a difficult time getting the materials to start the process. They do have the materials they need, and construction is scheduled for next week. The company that builds the gangways is also behind due to the storm damage from last year, but we are scheduled to receive our first one June 25. The old commercial ramp is still down at Town Landing and that's because the gentleman that purchased it is allowing us to continue to use it for the commercial side. Custom Floats has some used floats that they will install tomorrow for temporary use, so people have a safe way to get in and out of their boats. Al will send out an email today stating the rules, which are: nobody can put or leave anything on these floats because they are narrower than the old ones and it's a safety issue. They are for loading and unloading only. And people are not allowed to put their dinghies on that float, except for commercial use. We will be keeping a close eye on that and will remind people of this in an email.

They will start building the end floats (pump-out floats) and then the dinghy floats. If they are ready to go and the ramps are not in yet, Custom Floats believes they have some old ramps they will give to us to use in the interim (if they are long enough) until the new ramps come in. Once the ramps are done, then we will put the commercial floats in. Estimated end date for the project is July 4.

Chief Tolan discussed the administrative side of the project. Originally the plan was for two phases. Instead, we were able to do the whole project this year. We had to go out to bid, which slowed the process down a bit. We had three bidders. Custom Float came in low bid. We then had to get rid of the floats that were damaged. Some were damaged, but usable. We opened them up for bids and received about \$8,000 for those floats. We were originally going to be charged almost \$4,000 to have them removed. Lt. Kilbride managed this bid process.

Discussion on the configuration. The commercial floats will remain unchanged, with the exception that the floats are going to go another float length beyond the end of the pier so it can be accessed anytime, even during low tide. It's also handicap accessible. The end floats are going to have one ramp that's going to go off the end that goes down to the pump-out float.

Updates on Aquaculture

Al stated he just did the survey from DMR and no objections. Bangs Island Mussel has requested an expansion of their aquaculture farming. The state issues the go-ahead and it's in the works.

VI Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2018 at 8:00 AM at the Town Hall. William made note that a summer meeting may need to be held prior to the October meeting.

VII Adjourn

Richard Garrett made a motion to adjourn and Richard Craven seconded it. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted on October 5, 2018 by Ryann Philbrook.